

Red flag hoisted at Lo So Shing Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (August 19) that due to big waves, red flag has been hoisted at Lo So Shing Beach in Islands District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Flag-raising ceremony cancelled

Owing to the thunderstorm warning, the flag-raising ceremony to be conducted at Golden Bauhinia Square, Wan Chai at 8am today (August 19) will be cancelled.

Public urged to report flooding

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

Members of the public are advised to report any street flooding that comes to their notice to the Drainage Services Department by calling the 24-hour drainage hotline on 2300 1110.

Employers, contractors and employees should be aware of electrical safety

at work during rainstorm

As the rainstorm warning has been issued by the Hong Kong Observatory, the Labour Department (LD) reminds employers and contractors that they should adopt necessary work arrangements and take suitable safety measures to protect the safety of their employees when they are carrying out electrical work or handling electrical plant.

A spokesman for the LD said today (August 19) that employers and contractors should avoid assigning employees to carry out electrical work (like electric arc welding work) or handle electrical plant at places affected by rainstorms, and should refer to the "Code of Practice in times of Typhoons and Rainstorms" and the "Guide on Safety at Work in times of Inclement Weather" issued by the LD.

Even if electrical work is carried out or electrical plant is handled at places not affected by the rainstorm, suitable safety measures must still be adopted to prevent electric shock as the air would be more humid. Such measures include:

- (i) Ensure that all live parts of an electrical installation are isolated from the power supply source and rendered dead, and the isolation from the power supply source must be maintained as long as electrical work is being carried out;
- (ii) Before carrying out any electrical work or handling any electrical plant, cut off and lock out the power supply source, then test the circuit concerned to confirm it is dead and display suitable warning notices, and issue a work permit thereafter;
- (iii) Ensure that protective devices (such as suitable and adequate fuses and circuit breakers) for the electrical installations or electrical plant have been installed and maintained in good working order, and portable electric tools must be double-insulated or properly earthed;
- (iv) Provide suitable personal protective equipment such as insulating gloves and insulating mats for employees; and
- (v) If live electrical work is unavoidable, a comprehensive risk assessment should be conducted by a competent person and the appropriate safety precautions should be taken to remove or properly control the electrical hazards involved before such work can proceed.

In addition, employees should co-operate with the employer or contractor to follow the safety instructions and use the safety equipment provided.

The LD has published guidebooks and leaflets on electrical work safety. These safety publications are available free from divisional offices of the department or can be downloaded from its website (www.labour.gov.hk/eng/public/content2_8.htm).

Should there be any questions about occupational safety and health matters, please contact the Occupational Safety Officer of the LD at 2559 2297.

CHP investigates four additional local cases of dengue fever

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is investigating today (August 18) four additional local cases of dengue fever (DF) and announces the latest laboratory investigation results on the four local cases of DF confirmed yesterday. The CHP again urged the public to maintain strict environmental hygiene, mosquito control and personal protective measures both locally and during travel.

"The CHP appeals to members of the public who had visited Lion Rock Park to apply insect repellent for 14 days upon their last visit to prevent possible secondary spread of the disease. In addition, any visit to Lion Rock Park during closure is not recommended in order to prevent contracting DF. Persons who have visited Lion Rock Park with DF symptoms should seek medical advice as early as possible," a spokesman for the CHP said.

Among the four local cases of DF announced yesterday, further laboratory investigation revealed that the genetic sequences of the virus of two cases (71-year-old male patient and 40-year-old female patient) are identical to and one case (55-year-old male patient) is highly similar to other six cases confirmed earlier on. The virus of the remaining case cannot be sequenced.

Regarding the additional cases recorded today, the first case involves a 55-year-old male patient with underlying illnesses, who developed fever, headache, cough and myalgia since August 10. He sought medical attention at Tsing Yi Town General Out-patient clinic and no hospitalisation is required. He has all along been in a stable condition and his blood sample tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Greenfield Garden in Tsing Yi. The patient works at Lion Rock Park and recalled history of mosquito bite in the Park.

The second case involves a 63-year-old female patient with underlying illnesses, who developed sore throat, malaise and bilateral lower limbs skin rash since August 12. The patient was advised to seek medical attention. She has all along been in a stable condition. Her blood sample tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Chuk Yuen (South) Estate in Wong Tai Sin. The patient works at Lion Rock Park and recalled

history of mosquito bite in the Park.

The third case involves a 69-year-old female patient with underlying illnesses, who developed fever, headache, myalgia, arthralgia, rash over limbs, vomiting and diarrhoea since August 14. She sought medical attention at the Accident and Emergency Department of Queen Elizabeth Hospital on August 17 and was admitted for further treatment today. She has all along been in a stable condition and her blood sample tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Tin Wang Court in Wong Tai Sin. The patient went to Lion Rock Park for walk frequently during the incubation period but could not recall history of mosquito bite.

The fourth case involves a 61-year-old male patient with underlying illnesses, who developed fever, headache, retro-orbital pain, arthralgia, myalgia and skin rash since August 12. He sought medical attention at the Our Lady of Maryknoll Hospital Family Medicine Clinic on August 15 and no hospitalisation is required. He has all along been in a stable condition and his blood sample tested positive for dengue virus upon laboratory testing.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient lives in Chuk Yuen (North) Estate in Wong Tai Sin. The patient went to Lion Rock Park for walk frequently during the incubation period and recalled history of mosquito bite in the Park.

The home contacts of the four additional cases have remained asymptomatic and have been put under medical surveillance.

"We are working closely with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) to assess and prevent possible spread of infection. The FEHD's vector investigations, surveillance and control are ongoing. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Home Affairs Department are also following up on the matter. Epidemiological investigations are ongoing," the spokesman said.

"The CHP and the FEHD held a health talk on DF last night at Wong Tai Sin Community Centre to deliver health advice. A total of 24 persons attended the talk and 5 took blood for testing. Besides, the CHP will hold health talks together with the FEHD at Kai Tak Community Hall (3pm) and Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre (noon) on next Monday," the spokesman said.

Persons who have been to the vicinity of Wong Tai Sin (particularly Lion Rock Park), Kwai Shing West Estate, Clear Water Bay Second Beach, Hillside Road, Highland Park, Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground, Wing Yiu Street, Tak Long Estate, Portland Street, Shanghai Street and Greenfield Garden with DF symptoms should call the CHP's hotline (2125 1122) for laboratory investigation or referral as appropriate. The hotline operates from 9am to 5.45pm daily. Since August 14 to 5pm today, 77 enquiries had been received.

"We have informed the Guangdong and Macau health authorities to alert them to the latest situation," the spokesman added.

These are the 12th to 15th local cases recorded this year. Excluding the local cases, as of yesterday, 57 imported cases had been recorded in 2018. The cases were mainly imported from Thailand (25), the Philippines (10) and Cambodia (seven).

In the rainy season, the public should take heed of the following advice on mosquito control:

- Thoroughly check all gully traps, roof gutters, surface channels and drains to prevent blockage;
- Scrub and clean drains and surface channels with an alkaline detergent compound at least once a week to remove any deposited mosquito eggs;
- Properly dispose of refuse, such as soft drink cans, empty bottles and boxes, in covered litter containers;
- Completely change the water of flowers and plants at least once a week. The use of saucers should be avoided if possible;
- Level irregular ground surfaces before the rainy season;
- Avoid staying in shrubby areas; and
- Take personal protective measures such as wearing light-coloured long-sleeved clothes and trousers and apply insect repellent containing DEET to clothing or uncovered areas of the body when doing outdoor activities.

To reduce the risk of infections spread by mosquitoes, apart from [general measures](#), travellers returning from affected areas should apply insect repellent for 14 days (DF) or at least 21 days (Zika Virus Infection) upon arrival in Hong Kong. If feeling unwell, seek medical advice promptly and provide travel details to the doctor. DEET-containing insect repellents are effective and the public should take heed of the tips below:

- Read the label instructions carefully first;
- Apply right before entering an area with risk of mosquito bites;
- Apply on exposed skin and clothing;
- Use DEET of up to 30 per cent for pregnant women and up to 10 per cent for children*;
- Apply sunscreen first, then insect repellent; and
- Re-apply only when needed and follow the instructions.

* For children who travel to countries or areas where mosquito-borne diseases are endemic or epidemic and where exposure is likely, those aged 2 months or above can use DEET-containing insect repellents with a DEET concentration of up to 30 per cent.

The public should call 1823 in case of mosquito problems and may visit the DF pages of the [CHP](#) and its [Travel Health Service](#), the latest [Travel Health News](#), [tips for using insect repellents](#), the CHP [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#), and the FEHD's [Guidebook on Control and Prevention of Mosquito Breeding](#) for more information.